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ABSTRACT

A unique program for providing General Educational Development (GED) diploma testing is described in this document which includes a brief description of the program, a press release, and a brochure. The program, developed by the Newton, Kansas, Unified School District No. 373, is intended to encourage truck drivers to get their diplomas by administering the tests right at the truck stop and scheduling them at night or by special appointment when it is convenient for the driver. The press release includes a case history of the first person to receive a diploma through the program and background on how the program evolved. The brochure briefly describes the tests and provides information on enrolling in the program and taking the tests. (DC)

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Newell Truck Stop Testing Program

The enclosed is an account that appeared in the local newspaper of the way our Newell Truck Plaza program began.

Tests are given at the truck stop each Thursday evening. Drivers may also call the tester at home as well as at the Adult Resource Center for additional testing appointments. There have also been times when drivers have driven their rigs to the center to test.

If a driver does not complete the test while at the truck stop in one setting, he may of course test each time he happens to be through the area.

If drivers wish to have their incomplete test results mailed to another GED testing center for further testing, we naturally are happy to do so.

GED preparation material is on sale at the truck stop and may be purchased by drivers or anyone passing through in need of this material.

Currently our center is in the process of developing a math tape dealing with basic math concepts that incorporate some vocal and guitar accompaniment. The tape is so designed that drivers may play the tape in their cassette players while driving. The tape also has written material that goes along with it to reinforce concepts described on the tape.

A by-product of our testing at the truck plaza is that individuals other than drivers who come to the restaurant in the truck stop, see the sign and brochures on display and as a result take the GED test.

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Claire Capel, USD 373
Public Information Coordinator

Oct. 2, 1982

Newton School District
Extends GED to Truckers

Breaker, breaker all you good buddies out there in trucking land, here's a 10-44 (message) for you from the Newton, Kansas, Unified School District No. 373. That message is, "Get your General Educational Development Diploma (GED) when you come to our 10-20 (location)," says Marlin Frey, director of the district's Adult Education Center.

Through the cooperation of Charles and Kerry Newell of the Newell's Truck Plaza ownership and management, Frey initiated the extension of the GED program to specifically include truckers passing through Newton last spring just two weeks after the opening of the new truck stop on Interstate 135 at the Newton First Street interchange. Both GED study materials and testing are available for a nominal fee along with a free brochure describing the program, Frey said.

The Newton GED program has tested numerous truckers and local residents in the past five months with advertising confined to the distribution of about 1,000 brochures, a poster at Newell's and word-of-mouth. Inquiries about the Adult Education Center have come from as far away as California and Minnesota.

Frey received the first call for information within three hours of setting out the materials. As far as he knows, Newton USD 373 is the only school district in the country offering the GED in this manner.

On May 7 Ben Klassen, a resident of Miltonvale, Kan., when he's not on the road, was the first truck driver to take the GED testing at Newell's. A driver for Westport Trucking, Olathe, Klassen earned a GED diploma with a gold seal indicating the high scores he achieved in the testing process. Klassen, who has been in trucking for 10 years and owned his first truck at age 17, feels great about his accomplishment and the fulfillment of a long-standing educational goal.

Encouraged by a friend, Dick Shepherd, also of Miltonvale, who earned a GED, Klassen previously obtained the books at Great Bend and even took a pre-test. However, he didn't go through with it because testing wasn't available at night and he didn't have time during the day. When Klassen walked into Newell's in early May and saw the poster on the wall and the brochures on the counter, he knew that the time was right for his GED. He received further information about the program at Newell's from Carol Martin, a cashier who also earned a GED through the Newton Adult Education Center.

Klassen feels the Newton School District is pioneering the GED program in the right direction by making it available in the evenings at the truck stop where parking an 18-wheeled rig is no hassle. He feels many drivers will be interested, especially in the winter months when icy roads and other unfavorable conditions force drivers to shut down for the night.

In the meantime, he intends to tell his trucking relatives and friends about the educational opportunity available to them at Exit 31 in Newton, Kan.

Frey is pleased with the acceptance the program has gained in the short time of its operation and hopes the truckers' GED program will continue to grow. "It started as a joke, you know," Frey said.

One of his friends in the Kansas State Department of Education, W. W. Lee, asked Frey what there would be in the way of entertainment in Newton once construction on the bypass was completed and trucks would no longer routinely pass through downtown Newton. "I told him we'd think of something, maybe even give out GEDs at the truck stop," Frey quipped; and an idea was born.

Subsequently Frey and Lee met in Strong City, Kan., to discuss the feasibility of extending Newton's adult education program to the Newell's site and the potential availability of state funds to defray some of the costs. Their meeting was on Jan. 20 (the day the hostages were released in Iran following the inauguration of President Ronald Reagan); and they discussed the budget figures Lee had worked out. Lee indicated to Frey that he felt the program was a worthwhile one and would probably be approved.

Later that week Frey was notified that Lee, his friend and colleague, had died unexpectedly. Lee's successor, Wesley Pelsue, endorsed the extended GED program in Newton and a short-term grant was approved to run through June to be followed by a nine-month grant so that the program would operate for a minimum of one year.

In the meantime, truckers can obtain the study materials from the cashiers at Newell's and arrange to take the 60- and 90-minute tests in a private room there, all for a minimal cost. Newton and area residents, as well as truckers, who want more information on the GED program should call Frey at 283-0957.

--USD 373--



Newell Truck Plaza

I-135 at 1st Street

Newton, KS

Trucker's Headquarters

for

GED Testing

sponsored by

USD #373



To find out more about GED Testing at Newell Truck Plaza — please check area of interest and mail this card back to us.

☐ GED (High School Certificate)

☐ Mathematics

☐ Reading

☐ Spelling

☐ Science

☐ Social Studies

Comments:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Telephone _____

We are excited about our testing program at Newells Truck Plaza. We feel the potential of this service provided is almost unlimited.

No other school in the Nation to our knowledge has a program of this type. The Board of Education and Newton Unified School District No. 373 is proud to provide this service.

This program, we feel, represents a tremendous opportunity for you to increase your educational opportunities and skills.

Your participation in this program also gives us an opportunity to demonstrate what the public schools are doing for education in Newton.

MARLIN FREY,
Director

CLARK WHITING,
Superintendent

WHERE DO I TAKE THE GED TEST?

GED tests are given evenings at Newell Truck Plaza. I-135 at East 1st Street exit, Newton, Kansas.

WHAT IS THE TESTING FEE?

~~\$2.00~~ per test
4.00

WHAT AREAS ARE COVERED IN THE TEST? AND HOW LONG DOES EACH TEST TAKE?

Math 90 min.	Science 70 min.
Social 90 min.	English 75 min.
Lit. 60 min.	

WHERE CAN I PICK UP STUDY MATERIALS?

At Newell Truck Plaza

HOW CAN I ENROLL IN THIS PROGRAM?

The enrollment fee including study material is \$5.00, the fee can be paid to the test examiner on testing evenings.

WHERE CAN I CALL FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT DURING THE DAY?

Adult Education Center
316-283-0957